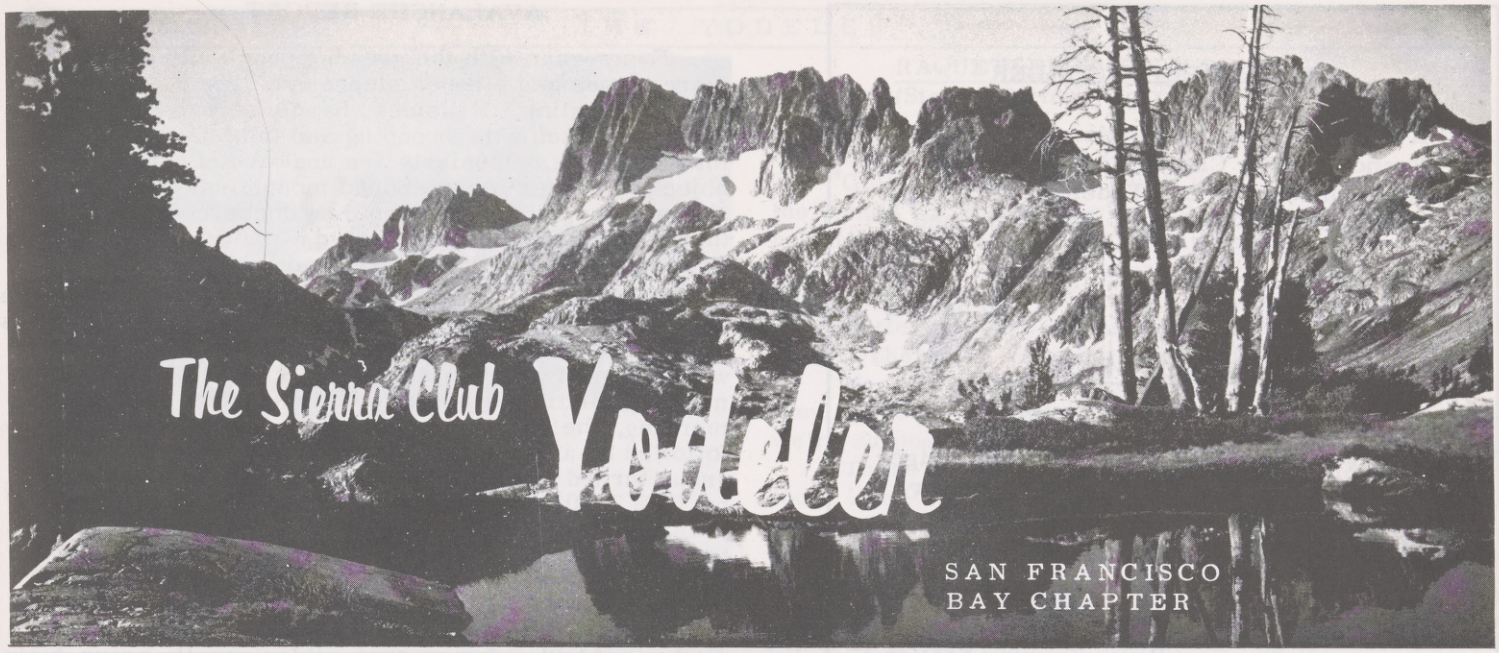

VOLUME XIX FEBRUARY 19, 1957 NUMBER 4

A CANYON VOYAGE

On Thursday, March 14, the Sierra Club, in cooperation with the Berkeley Recreation Department, will present Charles Eggert's Adventurama, "A Canyon Voyage", at the Berkeley High School Little Theater, Allston Way and Grove Street, in Berkeley. Admission for this performance is 90¢ and tickets may be obtained at the Sierra Club Office, The Ski Hut, Berkeley Recreation Department, or from Randal Dickey, Lou Elliott, and Betty Christeler.

Mr. Eggert is the Director of Motion Pictures for the National Parks Association and this particular program is devoted to the viewing of his cinerama-type movie of a voyage down the Colorado River and its tributaries, following the route of Major Powell who first explored these regions. We have heard nothing but rave notices over these pictures and Dave Brower states that they are something which every Sierra Club member would want to see, particularly those interested in river touring. In fact, the pictures are apparently so good that Lowell Thomas, the producer of Cinerama, has commented very highly on them.

The sale of tickets is progressing rapidly and we want to make sure that no one who wishes to see the picture would be disappointed. Therefore, it is suggested that you obtain your tickets as soon as possible, as we have approximately 100 left for sale. There is a possibility that a few tickets may be returned for sale at the door, but this is not likely at the present time.

IN MEMORIAM

The death of Arthur H. Blake on February 12 ended 26 years of magnificent service to the Sierra Club and the cause of conservation. Arthur joined the Club in 1931 and was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1952. He has served as Chairman of the Conservation Committee and for two years as a Director. At the time of his passing he was chairman of the Nominating Committee and also of the Committee on Cooperation with the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

No one knew the problems of the Western National Forests better than Art Blake. The Members of the Conservation Committee will miss him indeed.

HELP WANTED

The Club office will need a temporary employee during the spring rush to handle summer trip reservations. A good typist, experienced in office work is necessary. Call the Club office YU 2-2822

CONSERVATION. BAD NEWS FOR TREES

As rumor had warned us, the Secretary of Agriculture's decision on the final boundaries of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area eliminates the 53,000 acres of timber west of Horse Creek and creates a boundary along the creek instead of on the ridge top to the west. Senator Morse has said he will introduce a bill in Congress to keep the boundaries as they are now but unless this succeeds we can write off one more large area of virgin timber forever. In a few years the lumbermen will probably be using our own argument against us--that cutting one slope of a valley ruins the opposite slope as a wilderness so why not eliminate the east slope too and give the whole valley to the lumbermen.

The Glacier Peak Wilderness area is now defined by the Forest Service in a release dated February 7, 1957 of the recent Land Management Study. We can at least say for it that it is good in parts. It actually increases the Wilderness Area by about 90,000 acres over the present Limited Area but the additions are all on the east side. The reductions are on the west of the range where the long valleys of heavy forests run up close to the high peaks. The report explains that 17% of the proposed wilderness is commercial timber, and it goes to some length to explain that Wilderness areas should have some samples of forests within them, but since it also states that the timber left inside the area would support 240 man-days of work per year at the local lumber plant, we may expect that someone will raise a protest against allowing this much timber to be "locked up".

The additions on the east side include Lyman and Image Lakes and the country of last year's Base Camp. (The Forest Service can now say, look at the man-days of recreation use that area gets.) But the tip of Lake Chelan and the Stehekin Valley are left out due to a small logging operation there. The report is long (19 pages), careful, and gives some weight to the intangible values of wilderness. It is a good beginning, but it does not touch the northern area at all. In the final paragraph it mentions further study of Mt. Logan and Eldorado with a view to addition later, but it takes for granted an East-West all-year highway across Granite Creek. In Washington top Forest Service officials were shown pictures of the magnificent country in the far north Cascades and were very impressed. They hastened to mention that the proposed Wilderness Area did not preclude creation of other sucn areas in due time.

SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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Mailing this issue . . . . . River Touring Section

NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, March 4

Volume XIX, No. 4 February 18, 1957

COUNCIL BUDGET

The Sierra Club Board of Directors has approved a budget of $800 for the Sierra Club Council for the current year. The funds are needed to cover office expenses incurred by the Council and for transportation of chapter representatives to two meetings of the full Council and one meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council in San Francisco during the year 1957.

In view of the dual responsibility of the Council to provide improved liaison between chapters and to undertake Club work delegated to it by the Board of Directors, half of the funds for the Council are being provided from general Club funds and the other half by the chapters. The amount of dues returned to chapters by the Club, the primary source of chapter income, is being reduced during the current year from an estimate $10,400 to $10,000 by withholding 4% ($400) and assigning this amount to the Council. On this basis the chapters will contribute to the Council proportionate to the size of their memberships.

-- Warren M. Lemmon, Treasurer
Sierra Club Council

(continued from page 1)

Another adverse decision in Oregon is to permit cutting (for chipwood) of a part of the sub-alpine forests north of Crater Lake, thus threatening to open a huge stretch of timberline forest all along the Cascades to logging. The slow, sparse growth in these regions makes this a most serious threat to country which is ideally suited to recreation.

---CMC

AVALANCHE REPORT

Every year with the growing popularity of skiing, more slopes and steeper slopes are developed for down-hill skiing. Hillsides, hardly able to hold snow are now packed with swooping and tumbling skiers; many of these enthusiasts are unaware of a major objective danger in snowbound mountains--avalanches. Not only the ski tourer should be concerned with this threat but the slope-dope should also, for today most first-class developments harbor dangerous grades.

To advise ski patrolmen of this danger, an avalanche course was organized by the National Ski Patrol and was held at Sugar Bowl, Saturday, January 19. Presiding was Monty Atwater of the U.S.F.S., one of the foremost authorities in the field of avalanches. In the morning, the course consisted of a general lecture followed by a group discussion. In the afternoon the group turned to the field, a synthetic slide actuated by T.N.T. the previous day.

Avalanches originate from two obvious factors; too much snow, too steep a slope. A grade of about 25° is considered critical, though a steep snow slope may be stable. Generally slides may be classed as loose snow avalanches, packed snow avalanches, or a mixture of both. Loose snow slides usually occur during or immediately after a storm. Being caught in one generally results in injury by asphyxiation. Packed snow slides are typified by what is known as slab avalanches where a cover, compacted by wind and snow, has little adhesion to a lower layer and may suddenly break loose. Such avalanches are of the delayed action type and constitute a particular threat to the skier. These slides may be triggered by the cutting action of traversing skis, by sounds or explosives, or by sudden temperature changes.

The major emphasis of the one-day class centered on rescue activities, which were practiced during the afternoon session: a simulated accident on Mt. Lincoln, one man buried, a distraught survivor reporting to the ski patrol at Sugar Bowl Lodge. Immediately a snow ranger took charge (Jim Mulholland was selected for this role). He dispatched a hasty search party whose major purpose was to return with the survivor to the scene of the accident to locate and mark the victim's "last seen point". The small party then probed the slide with skis and ski poles in the most likely places. Meanwhile the snow ranger organized a larger force equipped with probes (12 foot slender sectional poles), shovels and other emergency gear. This contingent relieved the hasty search party and commenced an orderly hunt where a row of rescuers, shoulder to shoulder probed first left, then right, and one step ahead, then repeating. A buried dummy was recovered by both parties, though several mistakes were made. Emphasis was placed on the necessary haste of rescue operations but maintaining strict leadership and organization.

Although the keynote was rescue, it is well to keep in mind avalanche avoidance. Do not ski across suspected slopes. If you must cross such hills, cross high with bindings and pack loosened for rapid release, and one person at a time. If caught, make a supreme effort to get air space as the slide comes to rest. Remember avalanche alertness can be just as important as a snow plow.

--Bob Frenkel

MOUNTAINEARS HEAR

One of the staff reports that Bernice Wells and Edmond Laine, car-campers and hikers, were married New Year's day and are now living in Redwood City.

Since no one else gave us any news at all, Bernice and Ed can have this column all to themselves this issue.

--- HF

SKILAND SKYLAND

The luckless Don Huber, leader of the stormy Peter Grubb Hut trip, turned the Benson Hut trip over to a pinch-hitter and the weather could not have been better. Saturday, February 2nd a procession of fifteen started up the Mt. Lincoln ski lift. A hitch occurred at this point. A parka belonging to Betty Klevesah, would not leave the chair along with Betty. Result: B. K. hanging head down near the top pulley high above the snow while lift operators stopped the chairs and buzzed around figuring out what to do. They finally did - and they did it - and we all assembled for our descent to the ridge toward Mt. Anderson.

All the way was without wind! Lazy crystals of snow settled from misty clouds that nearly closed overhead then almost dispersed. Sometimes the air was spangled by sunlight on flakes still falling from a clear sky. Westward each ridge was veiled by a successively thicker haze. When the sun backlighted them each crest obtained a brilliant halo. The setting sun seen from Mt. Anderson was a glowing ember held between the horizon and a cloud that reflected the fire. Eastward Mt. Rose stood cold against a curtain of deepening purple. Then it was time to swing down through the powder into the warth of Benson Hut. Also warm was a sumptuous dinner with hot biscuits arranged by B. K. and Bill Colvig, all feminine hands joining in preparation.

Sunday broke very clear. The expansive vista from the top of Mt. Anderson reached through calm air to Mt. Diablo, Yolly Bolly, Mt. Lassen, and the Virginia Mountains in Nevada and down near Ebbett and Sonora Passes.

-- Neil Anderson

RAQUETTEERS' SOLILOQUY
(Sierra Buttes, February 2-3)

"Hello, glad to meet you."

"Golly, no bear paws. Will these racers go in the trunk?" "Move these around, put this there, now hold your breath. Hooray, it's closed!"

"Not bad. 7:30 p.m. start from Berkeley."

"Hey, anybody asleep yet? Look at the snow."

"Better put your chains on now and be safe."

"Gee! There's a light, but can't make out any name."

"No, it's on further, yet. That place looks like they're look'n for somebody. Maybe it's where we're supposed to go."

"There's a car stopping at that place. Hey, that looks like Pauline. It is. 'Hi there, it's only 1:30'. Coffee, cocoa or tea, and oh, yes, some cakes, too!"

"I've always wanted to sleep in a bar -- and on the floor too!" The faces on the bar room floor.

"Gee, Sophie, that was certainly a nice breakfast." "I slept outside my sleeping bag; too warm." "Hurry, if you want to get that film!" "They've left already." "It's 10:30."

"How do you put these snowshoes on, anyway?" "Don't ask me; I'm new too."

"There's a stop sign, right on the trail!" "There's a dirt road up to Salmon Lake in the summertime." "Guess I might as well eat now, too. This is over the worst half now." "It's a beautiful day!"

"Boy! Look at that scenery! Strictly Christmas Card beauty." "Sure is warm!" "It must be, look at that guy, bare to the waist!" "Might as well soak up some of this sunshine!"

"Wouldn't it be nice if the cabin would be around that point!" "I thought I saw a cabin -- only a mirage."

"There! Now see! That lake sure fools you. I had to stop three times to rest coming over." "No wonder! That pack must weigh 50 pounds."

"Do you think that tent will be warm enough to sleep out?" "Huh! Don't worry, I'm sleeping inside." "Enough beds for everyone." "He's sleeping outside!" "What's he trying to prove?"

"This is the first now group we've had here."

"Thank you very much, Mr. and Mrs. Ebbert. That was a very fine dinner and breakfast!"

"The second trip up here in March is already sold out with 8 on the waiting list already."

" - - - a big rousing cheer for Phyllis and Pauline."

" - - - a very fine idea to send out those letters to tell what to expect, and find first!"

" - - - Well, any trip that Pauline leads, he always nice and full of fun!"

- - - Pack Rat

WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

A key conservation event of 1957, the Fifth Biennial Wilderness Conference will bring together leaders in the movement that is preserving the wilderness of North America. The conference is sponsored by the Sierra Club in co-operation with the Wilderness Society, American Planning and Civic Association, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the Iaaak Walton League of America and the National Parks Association, together with many governmental agencies.

Dave Brower (of course) and many other prominent conservationists are participating in the dynamic program.

People are coming from all over, but it's right in our own area -- San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel on March 15-16 -- and you shouldn't miss it. Contact club office for further information.

OF MICE AND MEN? NO! OF DOGS AND WOMEN

Friends of Rudy Talso -- CTL Manager -- and of Chinook, Donner, and the other citizens of Samoyed City have just learned some new news about old friends if they read the February 15 Call-Bulletin, which is where we lifted the rest of this article.

"The mild-mannered former Cal graduate is a bachelor. 'I haven't time for women. How in the world would I have time for marriage what with taking care of these dogs?' he asks."

"'Besides,' he adds, 'these Samoyeds (used to haul ski casualties from the Sierra hills as well as supplies to the Sierra Club's three mountain huts) are dependable and friendly. That's a lot more than you can say for some women.'"

"The Samoyeds originated in western Siberia, were discovered by English explorers sometime in the 1860's, taken to England, and come to the U.S. in the early 1900's. As far as Rudy knows they are probably the oldest domesticated dog."

"The dogs get their friendliness from associating with the Samoyed people, living right in the same huts with their masters. Temperature means nothing to them, they're content to sleep out in 10 below zero, but adapt to warm temperatures also. However, they naturally prefer the cold." The article's description of their fur sounds like that of a weatherproof sleeping bag.

"What are the dog's reward for all their sled-pulling labors? Well, seven pounds of meat about three times a week, all the care they need from Talso, and not a worry in the world. You should have it so good."

FOR SALE

Fold boat, Klepper T-65. New, complete ... $200.00
Fold boat, Klepper Slalom 55, complete $155.00
Roger Paris, ClaireTappaan Lodge
Norden, California

HAVASU WITH WAMPLER

April 21-26

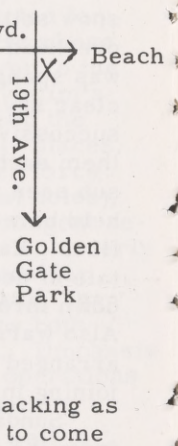
Again this year Joe Wampler is extending a special invitation to Sierra Club members to join one of his trips to Havasu Canyon, the most beautiful tributary canyon of the Grand Canyon. This is a camping and packing-in trip. 25 lbs. of dunnage per person will be transported. The trip fee, a very special one to Sierrans, of $43.00 (a later refund of $5.00 if the group reaches 25 or more) includes all meals from Sunday lunch to Friday lunch. There is an extra charge for cabins and horses. Reservations accompanied by the full trip fee payable to Joe Wampler, should be addressed to: Mrs. Ethel Unselt
286 Sagamore St., S.F. 12
JUniper 4-6207
not later than April 1, 1957. The trip starts on Sunday morning, April 21st at Hilltop at Havasu Canyon and returns to Hilltop April 26. For further information please contact Ethel Unselt.

GOING, GOING . . .

If you don't have your ticket to the event of the season - The knapsackers' Start-of-the-Season Party, of course -- do not delay, but contact one of the people below IMMEDIATELY. Oscar of the YWCA must know how many mouths to ply with such delicacies as spaghetti, and salad a la Klevesahl, etc. A social evening with slides, folk dancing, and good old Sierra Club yakking awaits you.

Date: Saturday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Sigmud Stern Grove
Sloat Blvd. and 19th Ave., S.D.

Tickets and info:
Oscar Ortiz AT 2-1457
Barbara Schill JO 7-8877
Chris Ingersoll WE 1-6528
Dick Monges TH 3-2444
Walt Oppenheimer OV 1-5536



KNAPSACK BEGINNERS' COURSE

All persons interested in taking up knapsacking as a healthful and rewarding activity are invited to come and view displays, set up by Carol Turner and Stan Renouff, of knapsacking equipment, clothing and cooking gear, as well as to hear some experienced advice from Ken Gruber and Lou Henrich. Margaret Colling is in charge of the course this year. As her contribution to the program, she will hold an informal Question-and-Answer session to bring out all possible points of interest that need clearing up.

The time: Monday evening, March 11, 7:30 p.m.
The place: Mills Tower Assembly Room,
Third Floor, 220 Bush Street
San Francisco

COME SEE OUR BOATS!

The River Touring Section invites you to attend a Boat Show March 19 at the Canoe House on Oak Street in Oakland. There will be about thirty different types of paddle craft on display along with boating accessories.

This is your chance to see the kinds of boats we use and perhaps pick out one you'd like to try.

The Boat Show marks the beginning of the section's training program which will be held at the Canoe House and at the YMCA starting March 19th and continuing every Tuesday evening through April 16.

LOOPING

At the February 12 meeting of the River Touring Section at the Canoe House, Bruce Grant told us of a new stunt we can try with our boats in the surf. To describe it, we quote from a letter by Oliver Cock of the British Canoe Union. Oliver and his friends have been experimenting with this maneuver with varying degrees of success.

Oliver writes: "I originally got hold of the idea because I knew that the Eskimos sometimes find themselves doing it when they are near a glacier which calves. The resulting 'tidal wave', as the few thousand tons of ice fall into the sea, can be gigantic. The Eskimo has learnt that if he can capsize first, when the kayak gets looped end over end, he will finish up the right way up!

"We haven't got as far as that yet! Nevertheless, the conditions right for up-ending a canoe (kayak) are sometimes found at the foot of weirs or in some heavy rapids where a rock causes a step. Therefore, we set out to find a fairly safe, artificial condition where we could learn what went on.

"We found it in the Atlantic rollers. It didn't take us long to realize that we wanted pretty heavy waves to upend 18 feet of kayak; but one can force the pace to a certain extent by back-paddling furiously on what looks like a convenient wave. An eight or ten-foot breaker may be big enough, but I would prefer to suggest twelve or fourteen feet. You must have enough water underneath you when you go over not to jamb the stern into the sand. The first job is to get outside the breakers. Then, facing out to sea, you choose a mighty wave that looks as though it may break shortly. The kayak must be lined up dead onto the wave; otherwise, you will just yaw around sideways. Choosing your wave, you back-paddle as hard as you can, starting, in fact, to "surf" backwards on the wave. When it breaks, the stern of the kayak will get dug into the wave ahead of it (behind you), and you will loop. What goes on while you are upside down in the wave was well illustrated in "White Water" (British), but after that you roll up. I wish you luck!"

---BT

WANTED

Lady to share modern Russian Hill apartment. Private studio room. Good transportation, quiet, reasonable. TUxedo 5-2594 (evenings).

FOR SALE

Spiro hiking boots, size 5-1/2C $6.00
Brown leather riding boots, size 5A 5.00
Phone PRospect 5-6531

BLUE-NOSED RIVER RATS ON THE RUSSIAN

Two intermediate foldboaters and two novices started down the Russian River from Hopland on Sunday noon, February 17th. The water was fine for the beginners down to Squaw Rock, but not so for the more experienced. One of the intermediates put a two-foot cut in one of the double boats, ending that boat's trip but quick.

Two continued downstream in two single foldboats while the de-boated two hitched a ride to pick up the cars at Hopland.

The run below Squaw Rock provided many thrills in dodging the rocks and slipping through little troughs. Of course, our stomach butterflies were magnified by off-season inactivity.

The approach of darkness and our red and blue complexions made us decide to pull out before reaching Cloverdale. We made like mountain goats and hauled the boats up the sides of the steep gorge. We were wet and cold, but we had fun. Anyone care to join the frigid wanderers?

-- The Blue Nosers

OSTRANDER LAKE SKI TOUR FEBRUARY 9-10

The report of this ski tour would depend upon who's writing it. Bob Frenkel and Paul Grunland will tell you about the fine view of Half Dome and Mt. Hoffman. They would also say that the pace was easy, that climbers were hardly necessary since the snow was on the sticky side and that the grade was gradual. All in all, a mere delightful eight miles either way.

Now there is a slightly different version as reported by Allene Agor, Hulda Coray and yours truly, Hulda took one look and gave up without starting. She says it was because she did not have climbers. The first three miles were along snow-covered roads, mostly downhill, and on the delightful side. Upon hearing that we had barely started after going three miles, Allene turned back.

The next interminable five miles were uphill with wonderful views which one could take in between anguished gasps for breath. We crossed delightful streams with water in them for those with a Sierra Club cup. For the poor souls without, it was grubbing with cupped hands in the mud.

The most wonderful sight, if a bit humiliating, was Frenkel and Scandinavian experts, Husevaag and Kleiran, shussing back down the slope, already having made the trip once that day, to relieve some of us of our packs. The next most beautiful sight was the hut itself. The food at the hut served by the Curry Corporation really tasted good. After an eight mile climb they could have served fried grass and got away with it.

As for the way back -- it rained. Need more be said? Yours truly poled himself down, even on 40^{0} slopes. A trifle sticky. Nevertheless, balance the ledger with good fellowship, pretty girls, beautiful surroundings, clear air and a nice long distance from one's daily work, and the result remains a most worthwhile trip.

Many thanks to leader, Paul Grunland.

-- G.E. Bermak

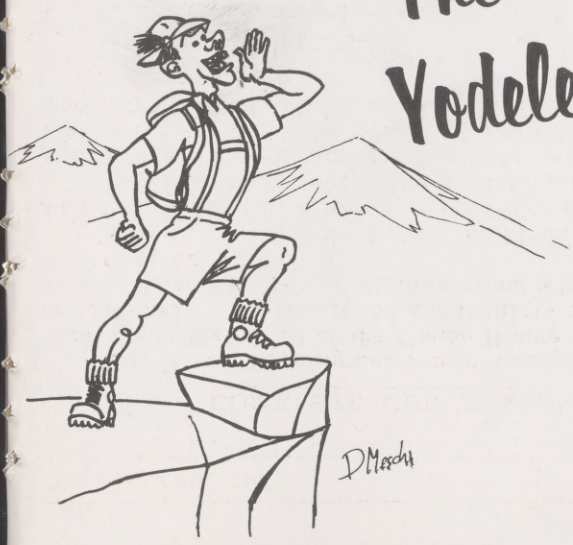
CAPE TO CAIRO SAFARI

This program by Beatrice Witteman at the East Bay Dinner on Wednesday, February 27 includes an emperor's cocktail party, a witch-doctor's barbecue, Pygmies and Satusis, besides wild animals. She took her pictures in the summer of 1955 on a trip to Africa.

Please note: For this meeting we will meet and eat at Willard School cafeteria -- not at Whittier School. Those coming from San Francisco take the "F" train as usual but get off at Ward & Shattuck and walk three long blocks north to Telegraph. The cafeteria is in the annex behind the main building. Willard School is at Ward & Telegraph, Berkeley. Dinner is at 6:30, the program about 7:30. Phone Betty Franklin at OLympic 5-5113 by February 25th for reservations and cancellation.

THE SIERRA CLUB
1050 Mills Tower 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California

The Yodeler



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